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PP RUEHDA  
DE RUEHAK #0976 1431424  
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P 221424Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6368  
INFO RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC  
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1589  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4247  
RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA 2950

UNCLAS ANKARA 000976

DEPT FOR EEB/TPP/MTA - CVOLTMER  
DEPT FOR EEB/TPP/ABT - GCLEMENTS & JBOBO  
DEPT FOR EEB/TPP - MLURIE  
USDA/FAS/OCRA/SEIDBAND  
USDA/FAS FOR CJACKSON AND MHOUSE  
DEPT PASS USTR FOR MMOWREY

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR EAID ECON TBIO TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY RESPONSE: PRESIDENT'S GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Ref: A) STATE 52628, B) STATE 53346

¶1. This report was coordinated with FAS Ankara.

¶2. We delivered reftel messages to Turkish Foreign Trade Undersecretariat Deputy Director General for Multilateral Affairs, Hasan Yalcin. He told us that Turkey too is concerned about rising food prices. It has long supported a reduction of agricultural subsidies during discussions at the WTO and asked us for information on any specific new proposals the U.S. plans to submit in support of the President's Global Food Security Initiative. Yalcin expressed concern, however, that with global food prices already at a "crisis" level, an abrupt end to agricultural subsidies could further increase prices in the short term instead of leveling out the market and providing relief. He said that any proposal would be carefully considered by Turkey.

¶3. We provided Yalcin the information in ref B about agricultural biotechnology and mentioned the EU's WTO requirements related to this subject. Turkey is harmonizing its regulations with the EU and has often sided with the EU on this issue. We will report septel about our efforts to increase public awareness about the benefits of agricultural biotechnology in Turkey.

WILSON